

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

#### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): Fine particles, comprising:  
at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin and a polyolefin copolymer; and  
at least one magnetic material enclosed within the polymer and within the fine particles, wherein the particles are substantially spherical particles having a density of 0.9 to 1.5 g/cc and an average particle size of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  to 1,000  $\mu\text{m}$ , and the particles have a functional group on the particle surface.
2. (previously presented): The fine particles according to Claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of a polypropylene, a polyethylene, and mixtures thereof, and the polyolefin copolymer is selected from the group consisting of a propylene copolymer, an ethylene copolymer, and mixtures thereof.
3. (previously presented): The fine particles according to either Claim 1 or 2, wherein the functional group is at least one group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, an amino group, a hydroxyl group, a sulfonic acid group, and a glycidyl group.
4. (previously presented): The fine particles according to Claim 3, wherein the functional group is selected from the group consisting of:
  - (1) a functional group in a graft polymer formed by subjecting particles to surface graft polymerization,
  - (2) a functional group bonded to an aliphatic hydrocarbon that is present on the particle surface; and

(3) a functional group in a comonomeric unit copolymerized into the polyolefin copolymer.

5. (previously presented): The fine particles according to any one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the average particle size is 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$  to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. (previously presented): The fine particles according to any one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the density is 1.0 to 1.1 g/cc.

7. (previously presented): The fine particles according to any one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the magnetic material is a soft magnetic material.

8. (previously presented): The fine particles according to any one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the magnetic material is a superparamagnetic substance.

9. (previously presented): The fine particles according to Claim 7, wherein the soft magnetic material is selected from the group consisting of a manganese-zinc ferrite, a nickel-zinc ferrite, and a mixture thereof.

10. (previously presented): The fine particles according to any one of Claims 1 to 2, wherein the content of the magnetic material is 10 to 25 wt % relative to the total weight of the fine particles.